

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

NUMBER 4256

MAY 1, 1937

SIXPENCE

VIVAT! GEORGE THE KING! A banner bearing this brave device, measuring 60 feet, adorns the entrance to a small street in a London backwater. It is typical of the Coronation pageantry that is drawing hundreds of thousands to London for a "pre-view." Last Sunday and the Sunday before, rehearsals were held at a time when most loyal citizens are fast asleep in bed. To the amazement of the authorities, tens of thousands flocked to London, lined the routes, gave three cheers when the empty carriages and the drably-clad troops went by, and returned to their Sunday breakfast content in the knowledge that they had scored over their neighbours. Nearly every schoolchild is wearing a coronation badge; streets hundreds of miles from the Coronation route are decorated already (hang the weather) and the stage is set for a triumph which, as a contributor says, Rome never equalled.

NEVERTHELESS, INHABITANTS of London have a price to pay for the Coronation pageant. Their patriotism and loyalty to the throne will stifle complaint, but it is a hard trial that in the Parks the dull pomp of modern war should overlay the pageantry of Spring and that for many days in the year's fairest season they should be deprived of the freedom of their open spaces. Even sadder is the desolation that those encampments are bound to leave behind them and we shall be lucky if the London Parks are themselves again next year. There is one consolation—so far the spring has been as inclement as an English spring can be and less has been lost by the Coronation invasion than in a more kindly year. The decorations which are going up apace a fortnight before Coronation Day will need careful superintendence, if they are not to look battered and weather-worn on the great occasion.

HAS THE AIRSHIP, as distinct from the passenger-carrying aeroplane, any future? The Germans are quite convinced that it has and the successful performances of the *Hindenburg* seem to prove that they are right and to justify the Zeppelin Company's determination to embark on a new ambitious building programme. German confidence in their airships has set the British shipping companies thinking and has already led, according to an apparently well-founded report, to the formation of a British Zeppelin Syndicate in which a number of our shipping companies are said to be interested. The idea of this syndicate is to make a bid for the air-travel market between England, South Africa, Canada and India, for this purpose coming to a working arrangement with the German Zeppelin Company and having two airships built by it. It is an ambitious project, but one, it is to be hoped, that will prove successful. If airship travel between the various countries of

the Empire is to become a practicable and paying business in the years to come it is as well that we should have our full share in inaugurating and in developing it.

MR. BUTLER'S clear exposition, in the House of Commons on Monday, of the constitutional position of Indian Governors under the Government of India Act and his assurance that there was no intention or desire on the part of Whitehall that the Governors should place a "narrow or legalistic interpretation" on their powers ought to satisfy any reasonable body of politicians. But whether it will satisfy either Mr. Gandhi or Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is quite another matter. The object of both from first to last has been to destroy the constitution—Mr. Gandhi indirectly through the medium of his ingenuous formula, the Pandit through an abstention from office that would make Ministerial Government under the Act impossible. It is unfortunate that six provinces in India should have the prospect sooner or later of reverting to purely autocratic rule, but still more unfortunate, some will think, that well-meaning persons in this country should, by their futile suggestions of compromise, have given so much encouragement and support to the astute plan of the Mahatma to foist the blame for an impasse which Congress alone has produced on to British shoulders.

THE SCOTCH WHISKY and the Irish Whiskey trades are enjoying a boom which is less satisfactory than it might be owing to a definite shortage of the matured product. It is not the distillers who are making the money, but considerable sums are being made by speculating go-betweens. Indeed, holders of matured spirit bought from six months to a year ago could sell it for anything from six to ten times the price they paid for it, but they cannot take advantage of the market for fear of depleting their stocks and disappointing their customers. The end of Prohibition has increased the demand to an extent which supply can hardly keep pace with. The United States absorbed 2,400,000 gallons of British spirits last year and will probably call for 3,000,000 gallons this year. All whisky imported into U.S.A. must have a Government certificate guaranteeing that it is at least four years old. During the slump years far less whisky was distilled than usual, so that a shortage of matured spirit has now to be faced.

CROWDED TRAINS, a correspondent argues, are a danger which will eventually lead to a terrible disaster. He cites (see correspondence pages) instances of as many as 23 people in one compartment built for ten, and suggests that if the railway company cannot find a remedy, the



Government should act. It is easy to rail against the railway companies; it is far less easy to propose a sensible solution to the overcrowding problem. We would suggest, as has been suggested before, that an arrangement should be come to with large employers of labour so that "peak periods" of travel are spread over at least two hours. Work could be started, in many instances, in fifteen minute periods—8-30, 8-45, 9-0, 9-15, 9-30, etc., in the morning. Then, the railway companies could probably make arrangements to remedy to some extent the appalling state of affairs that now prevails.

THE GOLDEN-VOICED LADY—or, as the prosaic Telephone Department of the Post Office would have us summon her, TIM by automatic signal, *Speaking Clock* to the Home caller—has, it appears, been rung up through the London Exchanges between July 24 last and April 17, no less than 9,226,320 times or over a million times every month. What wonder that the clients of the provincial exchanges are now demanding that London shall not continue to enjoy sole monopoly in listening in to this Third Stroke of glorious melody? And what does this prodigious recourse to the golden voice signify? Merely that our clocks and watches have an unfortunate tendency to gang agley? Perish the unromantic thought! Does it not also suggest a persistent search for relief from the noise and bustle of ordinary life, from less golden voices in office, in the home circle and, dare we say it, in the B.B.C.? Music hath charms, and who shall say how many savage breasts have been soothed to gentle quietude, how many dark deeds of violence averted simply through the melody wafted o'er the telephone wires at the Third Stroke Precisely.

CIVIL WAR still ravages Spain. "Basques Accuse Germans," "Germans Accuse Basques"; "Italian Atrocities Denied," "Franco Sends Protest"; "Rebel Massacre" . . . and the whole, crude, brutal business of brother slaughtering brother. Surely civilisation is far advanced enough to stop this bloodshed? While applauding the non-intervention policy of the British Government, is it impossible to suggest that the Great Powers should intervene *collectively*? Tortured Spain needs rescuing from the plight of its own making.

A HUSBAND who left his car in a Croydon street while his wife was buying a frock was fined ten shillings, the Bench remarking that "he should have known that it always took a woman a long time to buy a frock." Knowing Croydon, we suggest that if adequate parking facilities were provided in this town, the time of the court and the husband's ten shillings might have been saved.

"PORT ROAD," at the Queen's Theatre, is a play that is full of interest from beginning to end, and the authors, Wilbur Steele and Norma Mitchell, succeed in keeping us guessing as to the outcome until the last few minutes. The dialogue is clever and frequently hilariously funny. The

atmosphere of the American household is splendidly maintained and all the situations, whether comic or tragic, handled expertly by the actors. Special praise must be given to Louise Hampton who did full justice to the lovable and heroic qualities as the spinster, Emily Madison; Percy Kilbride as the henpecked George, and Mary Merrall as his wife.

THERE ARE NO new cinema productions this week to challenge the supremacy of those being shown at the Academy, the Curzon, the Leicester Square and the Palace. *The Man in Possession*, which is at the Empire, is a screen adaptation of Mr. Harwood's successful comedy, but the finer points of the play have been lost, and both Robert Taylor and Jean Harlow are disappointing. The best of the latest films is *Tainted Money* at the Regal. This has kidnapping for its theme, but the crime is treated from a new angle, and the case of the flying squad together with all the other usual trappings to this kind of story are refreshingly absent. Here one sees the gang off duty, so to speak, with the ransom in their pockets, and their cold-blooded attitude towards everything, except money, is the mainspring of the film.

IN THE CITY, as we wrote last week, a definite attempt is being made to curb "Share pushing." The Government have now issued the following document which ought to be widely read:—

Members of the public are sustaining substantial losses owing to the activities of fraudulent share vendors. The Government intend to take all possible steps to curb these activities. A strong and representative Committee, recently appointed, under the chairmanship of Sir Archibald Bodkin, lately Director of Public Prosecutions, is engaged in a comprehensive review of the methods employed in perpetrating these frauds. The Committee will put forward as soon as possible their recommendations in regard to additional safeguards for the investor. Meantime, the Committee has suggested that a general warning to the public should be issued.

The usual method adopted by "share pushers" is to send out circulars offering opportunities for investment which appear attractive and profitable. They may offer advice as to the investment of money in stocks, shares or debentures of particular companies, or "pools" or "options" in shares or commodities. Holders of safe investments are invited to sell their securities and invest the proceeds in other securities which are alleged to bring in a much greater yield. The circulars are often associated with periodical "Financial Reviews" or "Market Reports" which pretend to assess the prospects of various investments, some of which may be sound but others worthless.

Persons receiving communications of this kind from strangers are strongly advised to take no notice whatever of them; and in particular they should not sign any documents or part with any money or securities at the suggestion of agents who may call upon them.

Attention is directed to the recent remarks of Mr. Justice Finlay in passing sentence upon certain share pushers:—

Mr. Justice Finlay said he wished his words could be heard in every house in the country. These cruel and heartless frauds had been rendered possible by the fact that the public had been willing to believe the things said to them. If only, when they received circulars of this sort, they would consign them to the only proper place—the waste-paper basket—and if they would only take advice with regard to their investments from their bankers or members of the Stock Exchange, this sort of fraud would cease to exist, because it would cease to be profitable.

Leading Articles

COMMON-SENSE IN FOREIGN POLITICS

THE Foreign policy of this country has always been renowned throughout the world for its pursuit of a definite goal—it might be in a dim distance—and its contempt for immediate advantages and the sentimental emotions of the moment. The British Empire has prospered by sitting on the fence, as it might seem to an observer concentrated on the actual present, but its very existence is due to the foresight of those who sat on the fence with a purpose and ignored sentimental appeals that would have led the world into a morass. A fine continuity in foreign policy won for Great Britain the epithet of “perfidious,” and vast Dominions beyond the seas.

As things are, these islands are the heart of the British Empire, and London is a metropolis in a sense that Rome never was. The school of those who declared that overseas possessions were a weakness rather than a strength is in abeyance, and the Coronation offers an occasion for a demonstration of British world fellowship that makes foolish the most magnificent of Roman triumphs. The greater the Empire, the more vulnerable its centre. The extent and wealth of our Dominions and possessions only multiply the perils to which the metropolis is exposed. For as long as men are men, those who think they have less will be jealous of those who seem to have more, and will try to seize their just share of the good things of life. It is unfortunate that both individual and nation think they have a just claim to a good deal more than any impartial arbitrator would award them.

It was the strength of those who made the British Empire from the days of Queen Elizabeth that they did not split hairs in solving the problem of action. Here or there was something that seemed to them worth having. They took it. Yet always the further the circumference of the Empire extended, the greater prize became its nerve centre and capital. To-day London and industrial England offer to any enemy desirous of making the British Empire its spoil an obvious target. Cripple or paralyse them and the Empire no longer exists.

For this reason the command of the Channel has become a hundredfold more important than in the past, and this importance has been multiplied by the development of scientific weapons of offence. Experience of the War confirmed by events in Spain suggests that the possible effect of air raids has been exaggerated, because they lend themselves to the hair-raising prophecies that the sensational press loves. Yet air raids are unpleasant and nerve-shattering, and if there is one thing that is certain in modern warfare, it is that the further removed the bombing aeroplane's point of departure from its target, the lighter its load of bombs and the greater the chances of driving it off. Every mile of distance means so much weight of petrol for the outward and homeward journeys, and so much

smaller weight of bombs, and every minute of warning is of untold value to the protecting air fleet.

For this reason Belgium, Holland and France really have this country in their pocket. We can never allow the Continental coast that faces us across the Channel from Ushant to the North East to be in the possession of a single power until we have thrown in our Imperial hand. It is our good fortune that France, like ourselves, has no desire to enlarge her possessions. What she has she will hold as a matter of national pride, but the wildest gallophobe has never suggested that the Third Republic is secretly aiming at dominion over Belgium or Holland. That is why France in the final hour of trial must always find this country on her side. France, like Great Britain, has outlived her period of imperial acquisition, and asks nothing better than the maintenance of the *status quo*.

For this reason the Anglo-French declaration to Belgium is little more than the recognition of an inevitable fact. Neither Great Britain nor France can allow Belgium to be subjugated on pain of their own collapse, and the remission of the obligations imposed on Belgium by the Locarno treaty is no more than an admission that that country is assured of Franco-British support in case of aggression for the most compelling motive of all, the motive of self-preservation. Belgium has an uneasy feeling that in case of certain developments in the East, she might find herself compelled by the Locarno treaty to attack Germany as an ally of France. If the declaration relieves the feelings of her people on this point, so much the better. The fact remains that Europe is a whole, and war in the East will inevitably involve the rest of the Continent.

We might all rejoice in a duel between Germany and Russia if intervention was barred, but neither of these formidable powers can go for one another without breaking the equilibrium of the States that lie between them. The day after the declaration of War all our pacifists would be clamouring for our instant intervention on behalf of this or that Balkan or Baltic power, and Belgium would be in no better case. A civil war starts in Spain between two parties of diametrically opposing views, and at once the whole of European diplomacy has to be mobilised to prevent this local conflagration from setting light to all our civilisation. Can anyone suppose that a war between two great powers could be isolated from the rest of the world?

There is one point in the Anglo-French declaration that is dangerous and disquieting. Belgium is reminded of her obligations under “the Covenant of the League of Nations.” Even the *Manchester Guardian* admits that the possibility of action resulting from her membership of the League of Nations is “somewhat vague.” In other words it is non-existent. “The League of Nations” is a perilous and deceptive misnomer. “The League of European Nations” was still possible when the United States ran away from their own idea, but to-day the most comprehensive title it can claim is that of “A League of Nations” as one might speak of a Triple Alliance. The so-called League would have a real significance if it was

regarded as a union of the nations who subscribe to it for a common end. It is idiotic and profoundly dangerous to close our eyes to reality and make believe that the League is really "The League of Nations." Such a pretence excuses misguided optimism and the false economy of disarmament.

Italy and Germany confess their belief in war as an instrument of policy and while they hold aloof from the activities of the League it can be little more than a whitened sepulchre. The policy of international non-intervention in the Spanish civil war cannot be regarded as a triumph of diplomacy, but if the League had been entrusted with the handling of the problem, we may be sure that at best nothing would have been done, and at worst, by this time the whole of Europe would have been plunged into war.

THAT £100,000,000

CONSIDERABLE surprise and some confusion has been caused by the announcement of a Defence Loan so quickly upon the heels of the Budget proposals. The Chancellor said in his Budget, however, that the amount of re-armament expenditure this year which would not be covered by revenue, and would have to be met by additional borrowing, was £80,000,000. The new loan will more than take care of this amount.

It is in the form of National Defence Bonds bearing interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum and issued at the price of $99\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It is a medium-short term security, being redeemable in 1948 with drawings, commencing in 1944, amounting each year to not less than 20 per cent. of the loan. Bonds so drawn will be repaid at par. The new loan, therefore, yields just over $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. flat or £2 11s. 6d. per cent., allowing for redemption at an average date, giving the new bonds a "life" of $9\frac{1}{2}$ years. It cannot be said, therefore, that the new bonds are attractive to the ordinary investor; once more the Government has produced an issue calculated to appeal to finance houses, banks and insurance companies and it is, perhaps, a pity that a more direct appeal has not been made to the public to lend money to their country to meet the cost of defence.

Quite a number of the investing public, however, may feel impelled to help to make the new loan a success and so they should understand what kind of security they are getting. The bonds are, of course, a full Trustee security and until the autumn of 1944 there is no question of their repayment; the "flat" interest return of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the money, giving a yield of just over this level owing to the price of issue being just below par, will be paid regularly in half-yearly instalments.

In 1944 those who are lucky may have their bonds drawn for repayment at par, and each year thereafter a similar chance will occur until the whole of the bonds are redeemed at par in 1948.

Naturally the new Bonds are being compared with existing $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. British Government issues. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Conversion Loan can be purchased at $98\frac{1}{2}$, having a probable "life" of 12 years, and the yield on this stock to redemption is £2 14s. 6d. per cent. Those who require a Trustee

security with redemption at about 1948-9 will probably be attracted more by $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Conversion than by the new bonds. If, however, the new bond is compared with the old 5 per cent. Conversion quite an attractive exchange is offered for, allowing for the heavy incidence of income tax on the 5 per cent. stock, the yield to redemption is not a great deal over $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the 5 per cent. stock being repayable in 1944. To holders of the 5 per cent. stock, the new bonds thus offer a better yield and security of capital over the period, though the "flat" interest payment is, of course, less.

The effect on the market of the new Bond issue was disappointing, for instead of the immediate steadying influence usually attributable to the announcement of a Government loan, the gilt-edged market took on a dull appearance and other sections were frankly flat. At the moment, however, the Stock Markets are subject to a good deal of financial trouble due to forced liquidation of speculative positions. The gold scare raised by rumours that the U.S.A. were no longer prepared to buy the precious metal at \$35 per ounce, though later denied, was sufficient to cause a panic in Johannesburg where the most unwarrantable gambling has been taking place in gold-mining, copper, and diamond shares. This had its repercussions in London and while they were taking their full effect the additional blow of the new National Defence Contribution Tax was delivered by the Chancellor, leaving the market in a state of trepidation and uncertainty. The Defence Loan, itself, must therefore not be blamed for Stock Market weakness, though it is difficult to see why the Chancellor should not have postponed its issue until markets had recovered a more normal appearance.

The City had generally expected that for some time, at least, Defence costs which had to be met by borrowing would be the subject of increased Treasury Bill issues. The Treasury borrows each week amounts varying from £30,000,000 to £50,000,000 in three months Treasury Bills at average rates of around one-half per cent., the lenders being Discount Houses, banks and other financial institutions which must maintain large volumes of funds in completely liquid form. If the volume of Treasury Bills outstanding in the Money Market were to be increased, doubtless the rate at which they were tendered for would be slightly dearer to the Treasury. But the latter could surely afford to allow the Treasury Bill rate to rise to one per cent. or so without any great harm resulting.

Later would come the problem of funding some portion of the Floating Debt, and apparently the Government prefers to raise the money now while the "going is good." The fact that the Chancellor is taking the earliest opportunity of raising money for Defence on long-term loan has not been taken by the market as too good an augury for the future. The likelihood of some further rise in interest rates and consequent drop in British Government stocks is being once again discussed. Against this has to be placed the fact that in the next five years the Chancellor has to raise a further £300,000,000 and he has between each

slice of Government issues to leave breathing-space for the raising of funds for municipal purposes, by Corporations, Counties, Boroughs, and Public Boards to finance housing, rail construction, public works, etc. Truly the paths of "managed money" are thorny.

TESTS OF DEMOCRACY

IF those who are responsible for the persistence of sporadic strikes in this country wanted an illustration of the kind of mess which they make, they need only look across the Channel at France. There the unfortunate M. Blum is pursued by the Nemesis of "his own too much." He and the "Front Populaire" came to power on a wave of discontent among the workers and a temporary swing away from the right on the part of many who generally belong to it, and he proceeded to satisfy, as he imagined, the wishes and hopes of those who gave him authority.

Almost at once, like Frankenstein, he was overcome by the troublesome character of the monster he had created. He found it necessary to call a halt to the vast programmes of public works and to reassure the investors, great and small, from whom he wanted his loan. He thought that he had persuaded the workers to some show of reason, even if this was to be no more than a lucid interval. He had not done so. The disastrous strikes have begun again and under his forty hour week even Montmartre has been plunged into darkness and apathy. Meanwhile, the attitude of the employers has been greatly stiffened, the general sense of France is beginning to revolt against this tyranny from the Left, and the Premiership of M. Blum with the life of his Government is in danger of collapse.

Here in England we have had one petty unauthorised strike after another and the threat of the busmen to bring chaos to London's transport just before and during the Coronation festivities looks very like the conduct of the highwayman who takes your purse while the muzzle of his pistol is pressed uncomfortably against the sinking pit of your stomach. In fact, the busmen started their dispute with a good deal of sympathy among the public who did not, of course, understand at all precisely the rights and wrongs of the dispute. But this naked threat, together with the rejection of the company's suggested reference to arbitration—which have been rather disconcerting phenomena of the leadership of Mr. Ernest Bevin—has alienated most of this sympathy; and without public sympathy no transport strike has any real hope of success.

It may be natural and indeed inevitable that demands for increased wages and greater leisure should pursue any revival of trade and prosperity. But it is always true that the weapon of the strike is a deadly boomerang and it is quite certain that we cannot, all of us, or even more than a very few of us, work less hard for greater reward without wrecking the hope of prosperity on which our daily bread is based.

If the civil war in Spain illumines the futility of civilisation the industrial troubles of France and the ugly spectre of strike mania in this country

show that, even where we do not go for each other with tanks and bombs, we are still in the nursery so far as managing our affairs with reasonable sanity is in question.

POINT-TO-POINT

THE point-to-point season began this year with a most depressing succession of postponements. But the majority of Hunts have by now held their meetings, though the races have often been run in very unpleasant conditions. The going has been generally heavy, and it was so sticky at Pilewell when the Tiverton Hunt held their meeting that every horse in the Members' Race fell. A few Hunts can at all events look back on fine weather. The Berkeley, the Old Berkshire and the Monmouthshire were fortunate in providing enjoyment for the spectators if not for the riders.

The point-to-point is, perhaps, the most pleasant form of race meeting. It is an occasion on which the fellowship of the hunting field is expressed in the friendly meeting between members and hunting farmers, between friends from neighbouring Hunts and well-wishers of the sport in general.

But the principal object of the point-to-point is in great danger of being forgotten, and it is of the utmost importance for the future of hunting that it should be remembered. It should be a day on which the members of a Hunt take the opportunity of offering hospitality to the farmers over whose land they have hunted for the past season, but the races are now in great danger of being used simply as a source of income to the Hunt funds. The people who benefit most are frequently complete strangers who have no interest in the Hunt, and use the meeting only as an opportunity to bet.

Unquestionably such strangers benefit the Hunt, but it is surely a short-sighted policy which ignores the farmers in order to give a day's enjoyment to visitors. One of the few remaining Hunts which entertains the farmers in the traditional style is the Worcestershire. At their meeting at Crowle this year no fewer than eight hundred farmers sat down to lunch, and after the last race their wives joined them at tea. The result is that hunting is popular with all classes over the whole county. Elsewhere an invaluable opportunity of fostering the fellowship of the hunting community is being gradually neglected.

Another unfortunate result of the encroachment of visitors is that some members of a Hunt will not enter for the races. They are aware that their standard of riding is not such that they have any chance of winning. Remembering that the majority of strangers will be unable to distinguish them from more experienced and better mounted competitors, they do not feel entitled to enter the race with what is often hard earned money depending on them. The development of the point-to-point into an amateur race meeting also makes it practically impossible for Hunts to return to the genuine point-to-point. The Royal Artillery (Catterick) meeting is almost the only one in which the competitors do not know the course beforehand, and in which there are no made-up jumps.

ROBERT COLVILLE.

Books of The Day

THE CORONATION

AS Coronation day approaches more and more books intended to commemorate it make their appearance. Some of these are devoted to explaining the significance of the Coronation Service and to telling the story of the Regalia; others set out the history of the British Monarchy through the centuries; while others yet again present us with character studies of Their present Majesties. It is difficult with so many writers and publishers turning out books of this kind for any one author and his publisher to strike out a wholly original note. But some of these books undoubtedly stand out from the common rut owing both to the excellence of their contents and the attractiveness of their general get up and their illustrations. One of the most sumptuous and impressive of the Coronation volumes is assuredly "A Chronicle of Kingship: 1066 to 1937," by R. B. Mowat and J. D. Griffith Davies (with portraits of all the Sovereigns and dynastic tables, and jacket designed by Cecile M. Driffeld, Arthur Barker, 30s.). This is of bulky proportions, enabling the employment of large size print for the 528 pages of the text. It is a lively, colourful, authoritative history, wherein due prominence is given to the influence of character and personality in shaping the course of events and the destinies of the British Crown and people.

Another extremely attractive book is "Royal Progress: One Hundred Years of British Monarchy," by Hector Bolitho (with 141 illustrations, six in colour, Batsford, 7s. 6d.). Mr. Bolitho's studies in Royal portraiture from Queen Victoria to Edward VIII peculiarly qualify him for the task he has here undertaken of presenting to his readers a brief but intimate history of our Sovereigns in the last hundred years; while Messrs. Batsford, who specialise in beautifully illustrated books, have surpassed themselves on this occasion by their lavish reproductions of paintings, prints, cartoons and photographs showing the private as well as official side of Royal life in the same period.

Two other Coronation books—both from Messrs. Hutchinson—should also have their appeal to the reading public at this time. One is Lady Cynthia Asquith's entirely new and complete biography of Queen Elizabeth ("The Queen," with 33 illustrations and frontispiece in colour, 7s. 6d.). This is written with Her Majesty's approval and is an intimate revealing account of the Queen's life from childhood to the present day. "A happy blend of delicate dignity and gentle friendliness, a naturally happy nature that finds its own happiness in giving it to others" provide the secret, Lady Cynthia thinks, of Her Majesty's conquest of the hearts of the British people. The second book is "The King: The Story and Splendour of British Monarchy," by W. S. Shears (with a frontispiece in colour and 25 black and white illustrations, 6s.). Starting with a chapter on the development of kingship through the ages, Mr. Shears treats of the Sovereign's place in the State and Empire and then passes on to discuss the Great Officers of State, the Court of Claims, the Regalia, Proclamations preliminary to a Coronation, the Coronation ceremony and the Processions and the Banquet which are no longer observed. Finally, there is a chapter on Coronation dates and anecdotes, with notes on the ancient chroniclers.

* * *

Heroes, like lesser mortals, have their faults, and sometimes the greater the man, the greater are his failings. Captain H. C. Armstrong as a biographer evidently believes in disclosing those failings, but only as a foil for sharpening the outlines of his portraits. And perhaps that is why he is so fond of the epithet "grey": "Grey Wolf" or Mustafa Kemal, Ataturk, and now "Grey Steel: J. C. Smuts: A Study in Arrogance" (Barker, 9s.). It is a disarming technique for it has the inestimable advantage of presenting the hero as a human being and invests the biography with the aura of truth and impartiality. It also serves the purpose when required for picturesque contrast as when we are asked to look on "two completely different and even antagonistic personalities":—"The Smuts in South Africa, disliked and distrusted, impatient and easily irritated by administrative details, reserved and haughty to arrogance, often descending to political tricks and often petty; and the Smuts in England, the illustrious statesman, calm and deliberate, giving wise and wide-visioned advice, trusted and listened to by a whole nation with attention that amounted almost to veneration."

Sixth Impression.

Price 7/6 net.

Schools of Hellas

AN ESSAY ON
ANCIENT GREEK EDUCATION

By
K. J. FREEMAN,

Scholar of Winchester and of Trinity College, Cambridge.

With fourteen reproductions of
Greek vases on terra-cotta paper

We have nothing but praise.—*The Times*
The book is a masterpiece.—*Morning Post*
This fine discriminating essay.—*Daily Telegraph*
Full of freshness and the joy of life.—*The Guardian*
The best account in English.—*Saturday Review*

MACMILLAN

The "grey steel arrogance" note recurs frequently in Mr. Armstrong's pages—"He acted at full speed, ruthlessly and with as little feeling as a machine of steel . . ." "Convinced that he was right, relentless in his determination, undeterred by threats and unmoved by pleadings, as grey and as relentless as some steel-built machine." Yet all this does not wholly explain the personality of Jan Smuts or the story of his career. It was not unbending relentness and arrogance nor the dualism in his character that made him the loving disciple of Botha, caused him loyally to accept the Treaty of Vereeniging, reconciled him with Milner, helped him to become one of the principal architects of South African Union, induced him to throw himself heartily into the prosecution of the Great War, linked him once more with Botha in pleading for moderation towards a defeated Germany, won for him his fame in the counsels of Empire and finally persuaded him to accept office under his *quondam* fierce opponent, General Hertzog.

Probably in all the changes of Smuts' adventurous career, the "calm and deliberate wide-visioned" statesman was all the time there, dreaming (to quote Mr. Armstrong) "the dream that he dreamed in his youth"—the same dream that Rhodes always had, that of a really united South Africa; and the course Smuts took after the Boer defeat was the one that he saw would best fulfil that dream. To do justice to Captain Armstrong, one must acknowledge that at various points in his book he refers to this dream and that finally in recording Smuts' acceptance of General Hertzog's offer he remarks: "By this act of renunciation Jan Christian Smuts broke faith with his interests and his instincts and kept faith with his Ideal." Perhaps that ideal had a greater influence on General Smuts' actions than Captain Armstrong would allow. But whether that be so or not, the author of "Grey Steel" is to be congratulated on his brilliantly written, eminently readable biography of perhaps the most remarkable of our Imperial statesmen. He has given us Oliver with all his warts; but he has not forgotten his greatness.

* * *

Old Father Thames has had his glories and his beauties sung and written about for countless years and one might imagine there was little left in the way of novelty to put on record. Yet Miss E. Arnot Robertson has managed, in the course of a leisurely motor-boat trip with her husband, Mr. H. E. Turner, from Lechdale down to the sea, to discover a new and piquant way of looking at old scenes and places and to give a delightful freshness to the log of her voyage ("Thames Portrait," illustrated, Ivor Nicholson and Watson, 15s.). That is because perhaps she is so unashamedly modern in her outlook: history for her is mostly false or regrettable and as for such things as the work of the Thames poets "it is we who should forever murmur, and they who should forever weep." One may not always agree with the point of view she so candidly airs, but her book has the merit of being stimulating as well as highly entertaining to read. And the illustrations, from photographs taken by Mr. Turner, are a sheer joy to contemplate.

The peoples of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe have a natural aptitude for languages. That, of course, is due to a situation bordering on varying nationalities each boasting a separate tongue. And to those who have mastered one or two languages in addition to their own it is no doubt an easy business to acquire one or two more if these seem to be required. Miss Lola Kinel being a Pole has accordingly found no difficulty in adding English to her store of languages, which include Russian, German and French besides her own native Polish; and since her acquisition of a language invariably means that she can speak, write and think in it with ease, it need not surprise one that when she sets about writing her autobiography in English the result is the vivid, flexible prose of a gifted, sensitive author writing seemingly in her own tongue ("Under Five Eagles," Putnam, illustrated, 12s. 6d.). Her autobiography, too, abounds in good things; pictures of Russia in the early throes of Revolution, scenes in Poland before the collapse of Germany in the Great War, America in the boom years and in the beginnings of depression, and last but not least the author's astonishing experiences as Secretary to the dancer Isadora Duncan and interpreter be-

ON SALE APRIL 28



The
Official Souvenir
PROGRAMME
of the
CORONATION

Order your copy today from
your Newsagent or Bookseller

STANDARD EDITION 1/-
DE LUXE EDITION 2/6

By gracious permission of His Majesty the King, this Programme is issued by King George's Jubilee Trust to which the whole of the profits will be devoted.

tween her and her Russian poet husband, Sergei Esenin. Miss Kinel tells us her life's ambition has been to write books. Her autobiography deserves to afford her all the encouragement she needs to persevere with that ambition.

* * *

The Spanish Civil War drags on its weary course and there are no signs as yet that either side has lost its zest for fighting out the struggle to its bitter end, whatever and whenever that may be. Non-intervention for the rest of Europe is the policy which the British Foreign Office has long been earnestly pursuing with what results the curious may be able to gather from the daily cabled mixture of rumours and denials. Mr. H. R. Knickerbocker, an American journalist, who has recently toured the whole White (or Rebel) front and who gives his impressions of what he has seen in a vividly written book entitled "The Siege of Alcazar" (Hutchinson, illustrated with 10 photographs, 7s. 6d.), has his own views on this point. "It seems silly," he writes, "for the nations of Europe to go on pretending that they are not intervening in this war. Every day you can see new French machines coming over from Madrid, of a type the Reds did not have in the first weeks of the war, while the sight of German and Italian machines on this (the Rebel) side has long ceased to attract attention."

The siege of Alcazar, where some 1,500 Rebels held out, till they were relieved, for seventy days against a Government force of 20,000, will assuredly go down to history as one of the most gallant stands of a beleaguered garrison. According to the statistics quoted by Mr. Knickerbocker, the

"thirty-six Red cannon fired 11,800 rounds at the Alcazar, which also received 1,500 hand grenades, 2,000 dynamite bombs, eight attempted assaults by bayoneted (*sic*) infantry, thirty air attacks, 500 air bombs, thirty-five tanks of flaming petrol thrown by aeroplanes, 200 bottles of inflammable liquid and suffered ten fires produced by aeroplanes and gunfire, while two big and two smaller mines were detonated."

Though the siege gives the title to Mr. Knickerbocker's book, only his last four chapters are devoted to it. The earlier chapters are concerned with his experiences elsewhere on the Rebel front, with meetings and conversations with Rebel leaders and with graphic descriptions of aerial and other fighting. The story of how Seville was captured for the Rebels by General de Llano is worth quoting for its record of sheer audacity. "It was," says Mr. Knickerbocker, "a Red city with tens of thousands of Frente Popular supporters ready to go out in the streets and shoot the military. But General de Llano beat them to it. With only one hundred and eighty soldiers, he knew he could do nothing but die if he took the defensive. So he put his one hundred and eighty soldiers in cars and sent them riding about the city, blazing away at the least sign of resistance. The first people they met were a group of several hundred Assault Guards, the organisation which the Madrid Government had founded to counteract the famous Guardia Civil, who were always inclined to favour the Right. These Seville Assault Guards did not know for sure which side they were on, but General de Llano decided for them. The sight of the General's men, the General's own firm

**THE
SUPREME
TRIBUTE
TO YOUR
GUESTS**

S U P R E M E



F O R 2 0 0 Y E A R S

**BOOTH'S
DRY
GIN**

THE ONLY Matured GIN

behaviour, convinced the Assault Guards that this was the winning side, so they joined up instead of resisting. From then on it was easy and the de Llano army by nightfall numbered thousands."

NEW NOVELS

Miss G. B. Stern is too fine an artist ever to be guilty of writing a second-rate novel, and accordingly while one cannot, with due regard to truth, place her latest book "*Oleander River*" (Cassell) on the same level with, say, "*Tents of Israel*," there are points about the book that will recommend it to all who read it: The rather complicated love theme—a youth who loves a girl who loves his father who has already loved and lost—is delicately and on the whole convincingly handled; the many portraits are distinct and clear and some of them very entertaining—suggestive, as one character observes with some justice, of the Sanger family in "*The Constant Nymph*." Then, too, there is the cunning skill with which a mystery that is really not much of a mystery is made to enhance the interest of the tale. Certainly a book to enjoy, even if it is not quite up to the standard of Miss Stern's best work.

Blake's well-known lines:

"I will not cease from mental fight
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built . . ."

give the title to Miss Gwen Tupper's mystical story of a young girl's response to the influence of her dead cousin ("*Till We Have Built*," Blackwood). Fourth dimensional influences may not be to everyone altogether credible, but at least it may be said for Miss Tupper that she succeeds in investing her tale with sincerity and the poet's vision.

For a first novel "*Women Must Love*," by Julia Hart Lyon (Faber and Faber) is something much better than a creditable performance. The author has a keen sense for atmosphere as well as for character, and if the characters she gives us are perhaps a little peculiar—in one case for its amazing naivety, in another for its irresponsible, hustling unconventionality—they are recognisable human types. The heroine in this book loves, not wisely, but too well—first one man and then another. But the story is far from tragic, even though the second lover dies at the end of the book.

The burly and cheerful Inspector Higgins, of Scotland Yard, makes his re-appearance, for the delight, one may be sure, of his numerous fans, in Mr. Cecil Freeman Gregg's new story "*The Wrong House*" (Methuen). And what a good opening it is for a mystery tale: an airman, lost in a fog and making a parachute landing on a lonely cottage; next morning a man found dead from poison in the cottage over the roof of which the parachute is seen to be draped, the room wherein the dead man lies being locked on the inside, with the key on the floor and no trace of any receptacle for holding any poison! Of course, Inspector Higgins soon satisfies himself that this is a case of murder, but how was the murder done?

Mr. H. R. Taunton, author of several crime thrillers, has produced another meritorious one under the title "*It Prowls at Dark*" (Hurst and Blackett). Here the honours for solving a series of mysteries go not to Scotland Yard or any amateur sleuth, but to a member of the provincial police. This in itself is an agreeable change from the not infrequent tendency of crime fiction writers to disparage provincial talent. To the excitements of his story Mr. Taunton also adds the pleasing element of romance.

Mr. Ward Greene in "*Death in the Deep South*" (Cassell) presents us with what is not so much a crime and detective novel as an attempt to make the reader share in, stage by stage, all the excitements, sensations, tortures of third degree examinations, political graft, Press callousness to human misery and other ugly features of American crime investigation. It is a grim record built up by "flashes" of prison scenes, of casual conversations in the streets, of newspaper reporters at work, of Press extracts, of the trial in progress, of the jurymen's reactions to popular frenzy, of the accused's misery and bewilderment and the like. The pageant moves with such speed that at times it is difficult for the reader's mind to keep up with it. But the general effect is undoubtedly impressive, if rather breath-taking owing to the rapid accumulation of thrills.

OTHER NEW BOOKS

"*A Popular History of Witchcraft*," by Montague Summers (Kegan Paul, 7s. 6d.); "*Franco Means Business*," by Georges Rotvand (translated by Reginald Dingle, Paladin Press, 2s.); "*Remembering Kut*," by Dorina L. Neave (Barker, 12s. 6d.); "*The Next World War*," by Lt.-Commander Tota Ishmaru (translated from Japanese by B. Matsukawa, Hurst and Blackett, illustrated, 15s.); "*The Foundation of Australia, 1786-1800: A Study in English Criminal Practice and Penal Colonisation in the 18th Century*," by Eris O'Brien (Sheed and Ward, 12s. 6d.); "*Gael Over Glasgow*" (novel) by Edward Shiels (Sheed and Ward); "*Bertie and the Lobster's Bride*" (novel), by J. W. Keightley (Stanley Paul); "*War Dance: A Study of the Psychology of War*," by E. Graham Howe (Faber); "*Elizabeth Fry: Quaker Heroine*," by Janet Whitney (Harrap, illustrated, 12s. 6d.); "*Types of Modern Theology*," by Hugh Ross Mackintosh (Nisbet, 10s. 6d.).

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

"*Christendom and Islam: Their Contacts and Cultures Down the Centuries*," by Dr. Wilson Cash, General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, is announced for May by the Student Christian Movement Press.

Messrs. Lovat Dickson will be publishing on May 3rd "*The First Queen Elizabeth*" (Elizabeth Woodville), by Katharine N. Davies and "*Who Rides: Events in the Life of a West Australian Police Officer*," by H. E. Graves.

Messrs. Longmans' books for May will include "*Stranger Wonders: Tales of Travel*," by Mr. Christopher Sykes.

Round the Empire

INDIAN FRONTIER UNREST

THE GRAVITY of the Waziristan situation may be gauged by the measures taken by the Indian military authorities to meet it: while two brigades are at present operating against the Tori Khel, no less than four others have been concentrated on this part of the frontier in readiness for any emergency that may arise. And meanwhile yet another Mullah has put in his appearance on the scenes to add his quota to the inflammatory exhortations of the notorious Fakir of Ipi. This rather dismal story of Wazir and Mahsud unrest after fifteen years' occupation and administration of Waziristan, and after large sums have been expended in tribal allowances and in building roads, may suggest a variety of different "morals." In the first place it is obvious that the anti-British propaganda of the Ipi Fakir and his associates would hardly have been as effective as it has proved to be had it not received reinforcement by rumours of the weakening of the British Raj in India. The frontier tribesmen have ever been wont to take advantage of any signs of slackening of control by Indian authority, and how else could they have been expected to interpret the license recently allowed to Congress and Red Shirt orators? Secondly, there is the moral that a little spark on the frontier may easily start a big blaze. In this case the spark was innocently enough provided by the Appellate Court which wrested his Helen from the Pathan Paris and handed her back to her Hindu relatives. That sufficed to light the fire of religious frenzy that has blazed up to such a height through the violent fanning of fanatical Mullahs. And so we come to third and fourth "morals" suggested by a well-informed anonymous writer in *The Times*. The revolt has certainly been encouraged through temporary success over "unseasoned troops." Is it not time that we recognised the patent fact that frontier warfare is a specialist business and made arrangements accordingly for the training of "specialized forces like the Foreign Legions of France and Spain," instead of transferring troops to the frontier haphazardly, as we have hitherto done, from any part of India in the relief season? Finally, has not the time arrived also for seriously setting about the disarming of the tribesmen as the present King of Afghanistan is reported to be doing on his side of the frontier? A difficult task no doubt, but worth undertaking since it offers the only sure means of turning the tribesmen's thoughts away from the at present irresistible temptations of murder, pillage and *jihad*.

COMMONWEALTH AIR CONTROL

The Australian States have allowed good sense to guide them in deciding the question of aerial traffic control. The Premiers' Conference has agreed that all States shall pass legislation enabling the Commonwealth to administer the air regulations. They have reserved certain powers to themselves, but the main point at issue in the recent referendum, when the electors decided

against the Federal Government, is thus settled. It would no doubt be endorsed even by a majority of the people who cast an adverse vote at the referendum. As was pointed out at the time, the Australian voter has a stubborn dislike of resigning State powers to the Commonwealth on request. Further, the ballot was psychologically influenced by the fact that, at the same referendum, the Federal Government asked also for power to control interstate marketing. This, it is now obvious, the Australian electorate was not, and is not, willing to grant.

The desirability of Federal control of aviation has been self-evident for a considerable time. It has been emphasised even more forcefully in recent weeks by the agreement of Qantas Empire Airways, Ltd., Airlines of Australia, Ltd., and Australian National Airways to a plan which provides for complete co-ordination of all major aerial services within the Commonwealth. The parties to the agreement insist that it does not establish an amalgamation. However, it will plainly lead to such an amalgamation. Unified management will undoubtedly be all to the good in the development of civil aviation in Australia. The system has proved its worth in other countries where it has been tested, especially when subject to the discipline of a government empowered to check the growth of abuses which a monopoly is liable to breed. There is no doubt that, working in co-operation, the Commonwealth Government and the private companies which have banded together will be capable of developing those internal services which the vast Australian continent so sorely requires to ensure its progress on modern lines.

NEW ZEALAND SOCIAL ENQUIRY

It must be acknowledged that the New Zealand Government is nothing if not earnest. However, its decision to add a Bureau of Social Science to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is not likely to be unanimously applauded. A large section of New Zealand taxpayers will probably feel that the cost of establishing such a bureau could be devoted to the provision of more urgent reforms in the social structure of the country. The basic idea is sound enough. The task of the Bureau will be to continue work of a similar nature done in other countries and to "assist the Government in basing its decisions of a social character on scientifically established facts."

There is obviously, in any modern country, a big field for exploration by the worker in social science. Many problems whose solution would be exceedingly helpful to the politician require investigation. Housing, slum clearance, public health, cultural and physical education are examples which at once suggest themselves. These subjects are all of supreme interest to the New Zealand Government, whose political programme aims at bettering the lot of the people in these and many kindred branches of life. It is apparent, however, that no bureau of social science could begin to produce worth-while results immediately. It will be a matter of some years at least before the fruits of the New Zealand bureau's work appear. While the Savage Administration is no doubt

taking the long view, it would seem desirable that it should devote its attention for the next year or two to making a practical attack on practical problems. There will be ample opportunity for the theorist to play his part when the ground has been cleared.

EMPIRE'S POLITICAL SALARIES

The revision of British Ministers' salaries and the payment of £2,000 a year to the Leader of the Opposition have prompted a correspondent of the *Cape Argus* to institute some interesting comparisons between political salaries throughout the Empire. He points out that Union Cabinet Ministers receive £2,500 a year and the Prime Minister £3,500, while the Leader of the Opposition merely draws the allowance of an ordinary member, namely, £700 a year. A special allowance for the Leader of the Opposition in the Union Parliament has been repeatedly discussed, but has never been seriously mooted. There has been no reference to it in the House in recent years. Australia many years ago decided to grant the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives £1,400 and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate £1,200 a year, the salary of a private member being £1,000 a year. Canadian M.P.s at £800 a year, are also better paid than Union M.P.s, but British M.P.s receive only £400 a year.

Union M.P.s, the correspondent proceeds, have voted themselves two rises since Union, when their allowance was fixed at £400 a year. In 1920 that sum was increased to £600, but it was afterwards reduced to £500. In 1926, shortly after the first Nationalist Government came into power, the sum was raised to £700. The salaries of Ministers, members and senators now amount to more than £150,000 a year.

SOUTH AFRICA AND PRIVY COUNCIL

The abolition of the appeal to the Privy Council is one of the measures put forward by a special committee of the South African Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurvereniginge (Federation of Afrikaans Cultural Societies) in order to obtain complete equality between Afrikaans and English in the administration of justice. "Our highest court of appeal is still the Privy Council," the report of the committee states. "This is an impossible state of affairs because it handicaps us in the achievement of the ideal which we, as cultural organisations, have set ourselves, namely absolute equality for our mother tongue in the administration of justice."

The report points out that, if a whole case had been conducted in Afrikaans, the Privy Council, consisting of "Englishmen with not the slightest knowledge of Afrikaans or of our law," would find themselves in an impossible situation. It, therefore, recommends that well-disposed members of the Union Parliament should be approached in order to obtain legislation to abolish the appeal to the Privy Council.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA PROCLAMATION

The current Cape newspapers contain accounts of the first reactions in the South-West Territory to

the Proclamation issued by the Union Government prohibiting any non-British subject from taking part in the activities of any political organisation. This Proclamation was designed to put a stop to Nazi pressure on the German-born inhabitants of the territory and it evoked, as was expected, a vigorous protest from Germany. According to the *Cape Argus'* Windhoek correspondent the general feeling of the leaders of the Union section of the population was one of satisfaction with the Proclamation, but this satisfaction was not un-mixed with certain feelings of doubt. The terms of the Proclamation were wide enough, it was felt, to have the desired effect, but much would depend on the manner in which the provisions of the Proclamation were interpreted in practice by the Administrator. "Naturally," said this correspondent, "the Act is in the main an enabling Act, providing certain powers for the Administrator, and until the Administrator acts—that is, declares what bodies are public bodies and foreign political organisations, and fixes the date upon which these bodies are declared as such—it is difficult to anticipate events. It is certain, however, that the Deutsche Bund in its present form would be one of the first organisations to be declared a foreign political organisation. Accordingly, the Germans are already active in their efforts to amend the constitution of the Deutsche Bund so that it will become a purely cultural body, exercising itself only in matters of culture, social welfare and unemployment among Germans, and in economic matters. Whether the Administration will agree to withhold declaring the Deutsche Bund a political organisation if its constitution is amended remains to be seen. It is expected that if the Deutsche Bund is allowed to continue purely as a cultural organisation naturalised Germans will form themselves into a political body to protect German interests."

LORD TWEEDSMUIR, EXPLORER

Lord Tweedsmuir (John Buchan), Canada's Governor-General, is to take a unique holiday in the summer. He is to spend two months in the great North and West of the Dominion and his travels will cover some 10,000 miles, some of it by aeroplane. He intends to leave Quebec early in July. At the end of that month he will travel by rail and boat to Aklavik on the rim of the Arctic Circle. He will then go 100 miles further north by aeroplane to Herschel Island and will return from there by aeroplane to Edmonton. He will next visit the northern part of British Columbia and will return to Ottawa early in September, having covered regions never before visited by a Governor-General.

A RECORD HOLIDAY YEAR?

Not all the world is coming to England for the Coronation. Although thousands of Canadians are expected, for example, there is every likelihood that Canadians will themselves beat the records for patronage of their own holiday resorts. The great National Parks are accordingly preparing for the greatest season ever. For fishermen in particular the appeal of the lakes and streams of these parks is irresistible. Canada has devoted a great deal of

attention to the conservation and extension of these fishing facilities, and has done a great deal of work in stocking the waters with suitable varieties of fish. No licence is required for the sport in National Park waters, but regulations governing catches and seasons have been laid down in the interests of all concerned.

CANADA'S MINERALS

So abundant has been Canada's production of gold during the past few years that in the eye of the average citizen of the world it has outshone completely the very considerable production of grosser but none the less valuable minerals. The non-metallic minerals, for example, which include fuels and structural materials like clay, cement, and so on, as well as such commodities as gypsum, asbestos and graphite, are in such demand that Canada last year sold them to the world to the tune of over £20,000,000—a gain of no less than £2,000,000 over 1935.

The capital invested in this non-metallic industry runs to £70,000,000; salaries and wages to £8,000,000; dividends to £600,000, and expenditure for supplies and equipment to £4,000,000. In the whole range of them, from coal, natural gas and crude petroleum to cement and lime, Canada has an abundance. She is, indeed, the world's leading producer of asbestos, the sales of which run to £2,000,000 a year.

GOING TO THE PICTURES

Canada has been devoting her statistical mind to the intriguing subject of picture palaces. The results are not without interest to those of our producers who are wisely keeping an eye on the possibilities of the Dominion market. Last year it seems there were 856 theatres operating in Canada, for which there were nearly 117,000,000 admission payments totalling roughly five-and-a-half million pounds, exclusive of entertainment tax. The average price paid for admission was 1s. 3d.

The aggregate seating capacity of the theatres is more than half a million, and each seat is occupied between four and five times a week. It has also been ascertained that every man, woman and child in Canada old enough to go, patronises the "pictures" once a month.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA'S NATIVE POLICY

Mr. G. M. Huggins, the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, speaking in the Southern Rhodesia Parliament recently, made an interesting declaration as to his Government's Native Policy. He began by emphasising that the main objection to the competition of the Native in employment was not that he was keeping a white man out of work, but that he was dragging the whole community down to his level, and he believed that the system of fixing wages in certain trades in certain areas to apply regardless of colour was the only way to overcome the difficulty. If complete economic segregation were attempted, the whole system of Native taxation would have to be changed

because the present system would be grossly unfair. The unskilled work in towns had to be done for the most part by Natives. "It will probably be necessary to create certain island areas in which white interests are dominant, similar to that applied in Native areas, to which no white man can go unless his presence is beneficial to the Natives." Native loafers, gamblers, harpies, and the like in the towns were not there for the benefit of the white people, and should be removed. Other Natives were there for the white man's good.

"Up to recent times," said Mr. Huggins, "the black man has simply been made use of in any way he could be used, regardless of the effect it would have on both races. To-day we have planned a definite objective, and the objective is partial segregation founded on the Land Apportionment Act. I am confident that if we make the Native a better citizen, capable of earning more wealth, it will bring more white people in more quickly than anything else, because the white man prefers to be a dealer or trader."

Mr. Huggins went on to say that he had no fear of a rush of Natives from the land to the towns, as had been the case with the white races in the past 40 or 50 years, because the mentality of the Bantu was such that, given decent conditions, they would prefer to remain on the land. He was satisfied that in Southern Rhodesia there was plenty of room for a much larger white population and a more prosperous Native population.

THE CORONATION

Five thousand native miners in Rhodesia are to have a paid holiday for the Coronation. The announcement was made by Mr. Samuel Turner, Chairman and Managing Director of the firm of Turner and Newall, Ltd., whose interests in asbestos are world wide, when visiting the great Shabanie asbestos mine in Southern Rhodesia. He also said that to commemorate the occasion the company proposed to erect a new dance hall for them, to extend their football field and to abolish the present charge of 3d. a month for the weekly cinema entertainments. This last announcement was received with a great shout of approval which showed the popularity which these entertainments enjoy amongst the Bantu.

A part of the Coronation celebrations in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, will be a church service following the Order of Service of Westminster Abbey. This will commence at 9.30 a.m. and be held in the grounds of the Drill Hall. Amongst the congregation will be 4,000 school-children. In the afternoon, there will be a Military parade, followed by a pageant, native sports and the presentation of medals to native chiefs. In the evening there will be dancing in the floodlit streets.

In Salisbury, the capital of the Colony, where the thoroughfares will also be floodlit, the Coronation service will be broadcast in the Public gardens. Children's sports will be held in the afternoon and there will be dancing in the park on a concrete pavement, round the bandstand. Fireworks will follow.

Letters to the Editor

SOIL FERTILITY

Sir,—As the fertility of a farm depends on the head of livestock which has been maintained on it, anything that reduces this below what ought to be carried on it, must in time reduce this fertility, since whatever artificial fertilisers can do in the way of finishing off, nothing can replace farmyard manure, except perhaps to maintain permanent pasture.

If a farmer breaks up more land than he can manure, there must in the course of time be some deterioration in fertility.

But when he is able to break up a fair proportion of his farm, on account of the head of stock on it, the State might, in order to have land ready to grow wheat in time of war, give him a grant of artificial fertilisers in addition, when the root crops are put into the ground, so as to maintain the fertility of the farm. Corn crops would then follow in the ordinary course of rotation.

To grow corn crops one after the other after breaking up the grass in its place in the rotation, amounts to "scourging" the land, and no top dressing of pasture can prepare land for this treatment, nor can it maintain its fertility.

Yet in time of war this may have to be done, so that in order to maintain a National Head of Stock, all manufactured food, such as bacon, butter, cheese, etc., might be taxed on importation, since it is produced from animals abroad, and not at home, where they could help to maintain all the fertility of the land, while foreign flour, the offals of which have been left to feed animals abroad, might be also added to this list.

JOHN BURTON.

Newtown Park, Blackrock,
Co. Dublin.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Sir,—The question of corporal punishment will shortly be examined by a Departmental Committee appointed by the Home Secretary. Valuable evidence will doubtless be submitted by magistrates, police and officials of high standing. The Howard League for Penal Reform will, of course, offer evidence, and that evidence, while not ignoring the humanitarian case and the psychological problems involved will, in the main, be factual, dealing with the practical results of corporal punishment in the prevention of crime.

It is not possible for most private citizens to put their views before Departmental Committees, and one function of the Howard League is to provide a channel for the transmission of such valuable information as may be in the possession of numbers of ordinary citizens. We should like our evidence to be as representative as possible, and we should therefore welcome any information from those who possess it to supplement what we shall obtain from our own researches and from our own membership, and we shall be most grateful to you if, by publish-

ing this letter, you would give us an opportunity of appealing to your readers for their co-operation.

We shall be glad to receive information in as brief a form as possible from those who have either first or second-hand knowledge of facts:

(1) The conditions under which, and the methods by which, birchings ordered by the juvenile court have been carried out, giving the date, place, number of police or other persons present; whether the child was stripped and how he was held during the punishment; and whether any medical examination was given before, during or after the punishment.

(2) What period of time elapsed between the making of the order for whipping and the actual infliction of the punishment.

(3) The effects upon the offender, physical or psychological, of corporal punishment inflicted following an order of the juvenile court or a sentence passed by an adult court. If, in any case, it is possible to quote medical testimony under this heading, the information will be of additional value.

(4) The after-history of any offenders who were either birched by order of the court as children, or birched or flogged under sentence of Courts of Assize or Quarter Sessions, with particular reference to the question whether or no they repeated the offence for which they were whipped, or were subsequently convicted of another offence, floggable or non-floggable.

We should be very grateful if anyone who has any information to send, would send it to us in writing, addressed to the Hon. Sec., Howard League for Penal Reform, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. We shall, of course, treat any information so received in strict confidence, and use only the facts without any publication of details whereby the cases could be identified.

GEORGE BENSON,
Chairman.

CICELY M. CRAVEN.
Hon. Secretary.

The Howard League for Penal Reform,
Parliament Mansions,
Orchard-street, Victoria-street,
S.W.1.

LIVES OF GREAT MEN...

Sir,—It is frequently asserted that compared with the past, our age does not produce really great men, mediocrities and not personalities, men who will not "leave their footprints on the sands of time." Some of our really great men of the 19th century are known "to the man in the street" by quite ordinary and everyday objects associated with their names.

The great Duke of Wellington has left us a familiar legacy in the very useful "wellington boots." The great Gladstone is associated with a travelling "hold-all" bag. The great Lord Chancellor "Brougham" with a coupé carriage, for which he had a preference. A great inventor, Charles Macintosh, has bequeathed future generations with a very essential garment in this variable climate of ours, the macintosh familiarly known as

the "Mac." "The Sandwich," so far as England is concerned, owes its origin to an earl of that name who was known as "Jemmy Twitcher." He was a most inveterate gambler, and he got the waiter to bring him for refreshment, a piece of meat between two slices of bread, which he ate without stopping from play. Benjamin Disraeli has the primrose for his perpetual emblem.

To-day, indeed, we are very short of personalities to leave their legacies for future generations. I think, perhaps, our greatest statesman and Premier since the days of Disraeli and Gladstone may make the briar pipe known as "A Baldwin."

J. P. BACON PHILLIPS.

Burgess Hill, Sussex.

"PEACE WITH HONOUR"

Sir,—The approaching Coronation of His Majesty King George VI and the Queen Consort in Westminster Abbey on May 12th while looked forward to by the loyal colonies of England as a joyous event, is at the same time fraught with many serious anxieties for the future safety and welfare of the British Empire.

The present Spanish War—Loyalists v. Rebels, may at any time become the *casus belli* of another terrible European War (which God forbid). President Roosevelt of the United States suggests that a Round Table Peace Conference of all civilised nations of the world be held at some early date for the purpose of threshing out national grievances and re-adjusting them on a practical "Peace with Honour" basis.

President Roosevelt's suggestion should be warmly welcomed and practically acceded to by Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, etc., in order that the Ambassadors of such nations may see the absolute futility of precipitating another grievous European War for foolish reasons.

H. A. BETHELL.

Nassau, Bahamas.

OVERCROWDED TRAINS

Sir,—A taxi driver who overcrowds his vehicle is liable to heavy punishment; many 'bus companies will not permit standing; yet the trains serving London are packed to beyond the danger point. In the event of a major accident, which seems inevitable before long, would the railway companies be criminally liable? The Southern, L.M.S., L.N.E.R. and the London Passenger Transport Board are all offenders. Most of us know the appalling conditions in tube trains during the peak hours, but dwellers in the outer suburbs have even worse horrors to face. A minimum of sixteen people in a compartment built for ten is normal; I have counted as many as 23 people alight from one compartment at Charing Cross. Why the travelling public should pay for seats when forty per cent. have to stand I can never understand. The transport authorities seem incapable of solving the crowd problem, so it should be taken in hand immediately by the Government.

O. RAYNER.

Archery-road, S.E.9.

Your Investments

AN UNFORTUNATE TAX

NOW that the hurly-burly of the first Budget shock has subsided, it is possible to sit back and take stock of the situation. It has at once to be admitted that investment advice and consideration given in this column in the past must be reconsidered in the light of the Chancellor's drastic and unfortunate tax proposal which he styles a National Defence Contribution. The possibility of the re-introduction of some form of Excess Profits Duty was discussed in these columns some weeks ago and it was then admitted that a measure which would at once discourage speculative interest in equity shares and stimulate a return of funds to the gilt-edged market would seem to be the Chancellor's goal, since it would make possible the vast Government borrowing which the re-armament programme necessitates.

But we failed to visualise anything so inequitable and Socialistic as the Chancellor's actual proposals. It is idle to argue that the money for arms must be found; a straightforward increase for the time being of luxury taxes or even a further increase of income tax to 5s. 6d. in the £ would have proved innocuous compared with this National Defence Contribution proposal.

EFFECT ON INDUSTRIALS

The N.D.C. seeks to tax up to one-third profits in excess of the average for the years 1933-34-35 or, alternatively, profits over and above 6 per cent. on capital in the case of companies and 8 per cent. in the case of other businesses. Many details have yet to be made clear before even the expert can determine the exact effect of the tax on individual companies, but the immediate effect would seem to be to penalise those concerns which were hardest hit by the depression and which have had to make the greatest effort to participate in the recovery. Thus the year 1933 was one of the deepest depression for such industries as iron and steel and shipbuilding, and shipping itself. Only in the past year have these companies tasted the fruits of recovery and shareholders in these concerns are only now within reach of some reward for the patience over many years of no return upon their capital.

Further, many of these companies have written down drastically those assets which the N.D.C. would apparently take as capital and thus the amount of exemption which they obtain under the "capital standard" has been reduced to the minimum. These capital reconstructions are not sharp practice; they have merely put their financial houses in order to enable them to buy new machinery and to enable them to compete in the world's markets. These are the firms upon which Britain's industrial future rests and they are apparently to be forced to make the greatest sacrifices in paying for rearmament. Such concerns as mining and rubber companies, investors in which bear heavy risks to obtain a substantial return, will be called upon to bear a heavy burden.

Not only does this tax seem inequitable in detail but wrong also in principle, for if the profit-motive is destroyed the entry of Socialism cannot long be delayed. And at a time when companies should be husbanding out of profits reserves against a rainy day they are encouraged to spend every penny or to hand over their surplus to the Treasury. The Excess Profits Tax in any form is inflationary; superimposed on re-armament, it can lead only to the depths of depression in the long run.

FIXED INTEREST AND "EQUITIES"

The return of fixed interest stocks to temporary favour seems inevitable and those who feel that they cannot retain funds purely for speculation should place them in British Government stocks which, for the moment, are bound for higher levels. On the other hand those who are not content with the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. which War Loan offers have little alternative but pure speculation. This is one of the greatest penalties of "planned" finance. Industrial ordinary shares for the moment hold little immediate attraction either for the investor or the speculator, though such companies as Imperial Tobacco or Imperial Chemical can come to little harm from the scheme and their shares should be retained.

At the moment South African gold-mining shares appear one of the most attractive sections of the "House." The recent scares as to the price of gold, as shown in these columns previously, should not be taken seriously; the companies are registered in South Africa and are not subject to the N.D.C. and yields in many cases are in the neighbourhood of 6-7 per cent.

THE NEW DEFENCE LOAN

The present account is again depressed by evidence of latent financial troubles in the Stock Exchange following the big differences temporarily tided over on the last account and aggravated by the Budget depression since. Still, the Government's attempt to make the gilt-edged market appear attractive by rendering everything else the reverse has been effective and so the first Defence loan makes its appearance. It is in the form of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds issued at $99\frac{1}{2}$ and dated 1944-48 redeemable during this period by drawings of 20 per cent. of the principal at par. As a reasonably short-dated under-par bond it should prove a fairly attractive security while gilt-edged rates remain at their present level. The loan is fully explained in a leading article in this issue of the *Saturday Review*.

LONDON & LANCS INSURANCE

The results of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company are not quite so favourable for 1936 as for the previous year, the Fire Department, as most of the insurance companies have experienced, yielding substantially lower profits while Marine also shows a reduction. The high quality of the business written is shown by the fact that the total underwriting profits still represented nearly 10 per cent. of premium income. Interest earnings are also rather higher and from the total profits of £1,094,000 dividends absorb only

£568,642. For 1935 the sum of £500,000 was transferred to reserve and as no further allocation to this fund is made the undivided balance carried forward is raised to £2,461,000. General reserve totals £2,000,000 and total reserves amount to £11,815,000 or nearly twice the premium income. The London and Lancashire thus maintains an exceptionally strong position.

ARMY AND NAVY STORES

In these days of somewhat changed conditions, it is pleasant to find a business such as that of the Army and Navy Stores, built up and maintained by progressive English methods, taking such splendid advantage of better trading conditions. Profits for the year ended January 31 last amounted to £703,940 compared with £660,296 for the previous year and in addition to the $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dividend paid for some years past the directors are distributing a bonus of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. making 15 per cent. in all for the year. Further, the sum of £20,000 is placed to reserve in addition to the £25,000 allocation to development reserve. As earnings amounted to nearly 26 per cent. on the capital the distribution is amply justified. At about 31s. 6d. ex the dividend the 10s. shares yield nearly 5 per cent.

COMPANY MEETING

ARMY & NAVY STORES

THE annual general meeting of the Army and Navy Stores, Ltd., was held on Wednesday last on the Company's premises, Howick-place, Westminster, S.W. Brig-Gen. Sir Frederick Gascoigne, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O., the chairman and managing director, presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the hopes he had expressed last year of a still further improvement in the results for 1936 had not been disappointed. For the third year in succession the accounts showed an improvement on the preceding year, the profit being £40,960 more than in 1935, which, in turn, had shown an increase of £19,090 over the previous year. He was glad to say that India had made a good contribution to those results. The increased profit was not wholly due to increased turnover but largely to economies in working which were now beginning to bear full fruit. During the year they had had the usual ups and downs in trade, and the extra 3d. unexpectedly imposed on the income tax last year had not helped matters. The extra 3d. added this year, bringing it to 5s. in the £, was very distressful, but, what they had not expected was the further tax on industry which had been given the descriptive title of National Defence Contribution. It was a considerable discouragement to feel, just as they were beginning to go ahead again, that they should be faced with such a setback to the hoped-for complete recovery, but after what he would venture to describe as the illuminating speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons the day before, they must now feel no doubt that certain hoped-for concessions and modifications would receive the fullest consideration which must be, he thought, a very comforting thought to them all.

With regard to the profit available, there remained for distribution a sum of £278,909. In view of the maintenance in the improvement of trade last year, the board felt that the turn of the shareholders had now come for some recognition. What the future held one could not say, but the board felt the actual results justified their recommendation of the payment of a bonus of 3d. per share in addition to a final dividend of 10d. per share, bringing up the total for the year to 1s. 6d. per share, or 15 per cent.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWTON COLLEGE, NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON.—Scholarship Examination in July. A limited number of Bursaries awarded on recommendation of Preparatory Schoolmaster for entry May or September.—Apply Headmaster.

POCKLINGTON SCHOOL, YORK.—Six Entrance Scholarships of £40 are offered in June. The School fees are £78 15s. per annum. Junior Hostel for boys under 13. Apply Headmaster, P. C. SANDS, M.A., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

SHERBORNE SCHOOL.—ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS. About TWELVE SCHOLARSHIPS and EXHIBITIONS of a value of from £100 to £30 per annum to be OFFERED as a result of the Examination to be held at Sherborne School on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1937, including special Exhibitions for the sons of Clergy and sons of Barristers. For full particulars apply to the Headmaster, Sherborne School, Sherborne, Dorset.

ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE.—ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS, 1937. The Entrance Scholarship Examinations will be held on 15th, 16th and 17th June, 1937. The Scholarships are one each of £50, £30, £25 and £15 per annum, tenable for four years. The major Scholarship may not be awarded if candidates do not show sufficient merit. The candidates should be under fourteen years of age on 1st June, 1937, but the Warden will not necessarily adhere rigidly to this limit; and may, should he think fit, consider for award a boy who may be slightly over age, but whose papers show exceptional merit. Candidates may, in certain circumstances, be required to attend a viva voce examination at St. Columba's College. The papers may be taken at the candidate's present School. For further particulars and previous papers apply to the Warden, St. Columba's College, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin.

WELLINGTON SCHOOL, SOMERSET. Entrance Scholarships annually in June. Bursaries offered. See Public School Year Book. Apply Bursar.

ST. LEONARD'S SCHOOL, ST. ANDREWS, FIFE.—THREE ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS are offered (£50, £70, £80), tenable for four years, for girls under 15 on September 30th, 1937. Examination will be held May 19th, 20th and 21st.—For particulars apply to the Head Mistress before May 1st.

HOTELS

BAMBURGH, NORTHUMBERLAND.—Victoria Hotel. Rec., 3; Pens., 6 gns. Tennis, golf, shooting, fishing.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Clevedon Guest House, Magdalen Road. Tel. 2086. Nicely situated, with garden, near sea and shops. Good cooking. Assured quiet and comfort. From 3 guineas. Special Winter terms.

BRIGHTON (HOVE)—NEW IMPERIAL HOTEL, First Avenue. Overlooking sea and lawns. Comfortable residential hotel. LIFT. Central Heating, etc. Vita Sun Lounge. From 4 guineas. Special residential terms.

BUDE, N. Cornwall.—The Balconies Private Hotel. Downs view.—Pens., 4 gns. each per week, full board. Golf, boating, fishing, bathing, tennis.

CALLENDER, Perthshire.—Trossachs Hotel, Trossachs. Bed., 60/-; Pens., from 5 gns. Lun., 3/6; Din., 6/-; Golf, fishing, tennis.

DUNDEE.—The Royal British Hotel is the best. H. & C. in all bedrooms. Restaurant, managed by Prop. Phone: 5059.

LEICESTER.—The Lamb Hotel. Bed., 20; Rec., 5. Pens., 5 gns. W.E., £2 15/-; Lun., 3/6; Din., 5/-; Boating.

FOLKESTONE.—The ORANGE HOUSE Private Hotel, 8, Castle Hill Avenue; 3 mins. to Sea and Leas Cliff Hall. Excellent table. "Not large but everything of the best"—34 gns. Winter, 2 gns.—Prop., Miss Sykes of the Olio Cookery Book.

HASTINGS.—Albany Hotel. Best position on the front. 120 rooms. Telephone: 761, 762.

LONDON.—Shaftesbury Hotel, Gt. St. Andrew Street, W.C.2; 2 mins. Leicester Sq. Tube. 250 bedrooms, H. & C. Water. Room, bath, breakfast, 7/6; double, 13/6.

BONNINGTON HOTEL, Southampton Row, W.C.1, near British Museum. 330 Visitors. Room, Bath and Table d'Hôte Breakfast, 9/6.

CORA HOTEL, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Near Euston and King's Cross Stations. Accom. 230 Guests; Room, Bath and Table d'Hôte breakfast, from 8/6.

PAIGTON, DEVON.—Radeliffe Hotel Marine Drive. Bed., 70; Rec., 3; Pens., from 4 gns., from 5 to 7 gns. during season. W.E., 15/- to 18/- per day. Golf, tennis.

PERTH, Scotland.—Station Hotel. Bed., 100; Rec., 4; Pens., from 4 gns.; W.E., from 24/-; Lun., 3/6; Tea, 1/6; Din., 6/-; Garden.

RYDE, I.O.W.—Royal Squadron Hotel. Bed., 20; Rec., 2. Pens., from 3½ gns. 1 minute from Pier. Golf, tennis, bowls and bathing. Cocktail bar. Fully licensed.

SALISBURY, Wilts.—Cathedral Hotel. Up-to-date. H. & C. and radiators in bedrooms. Electric lift. Phone: 399.

SIDMOUTH.—Belmont Hotel, Sea Front. Bed., 55; Rec., 3. Pens., 6½ to 8 gns. W.E., inclusive 3 days. Bathing, tennis, golf.

STAMPS

RARE Stamps. For best prices send to Harmer Rooke's Strand Auctions, 2, Arundel Street. Sales Weekly.

PERSONAL

"KIMBERLEY" HOME-MADE JAMS are made by a Retired Officer and Family and supplied to Messes, Clubs, Schools, Yachts, Bazaars, Doctors and Members of the Royal Households. They provide employment for 12 extra people in a hard-hit village, and every order you send helps us to maintain or increase the number. See separate advertisements this issue and ORDER, please, from Mrs. Hilda Kimberley, Gunnislake, Cornwall.

MISCELLANEOUS

BREAKFAST TRAY JAMS, JELLIES & MARMALADES, Home-Made, beautifully packed, in many luscious and unusual varieties; including BLACK CHERRY, WHORTLEBURY, PEACH, etc. 12 large Breakfast Tray Pots, 6/-, cart. paid; 6 for 3/6, specialities included. Hilda Kimberley, Gunnislake, Cornwall.

GERMANY'S desire for peace and general recovery. Read the facts. Free literature in English from Dept. 8, Deutscher Fichte-Bund, Hamburg 36, Jungfernstieg 30.

MEMBERSHIP of the INCOME TAX SERVICE BUREAU brings relief.—Address: Sentinel House, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

WHORTLEBURY, BLACK CHERRY and MORELLO CHERRY (Stoneless) JAMS: Pineapple, Blackcurrant, Damson, Peach and many other delicious Home-Made Jams, Jellies and Marmalades; beautifully packed SIX 1-lb. pots, 7/-; 12 for 13/-; 24 for 23/6, all carriage paid. Hilda Kimberley, Gunnislake, Cornwall.

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

12 months 30/- (Postage included).

To the Publisher, "The Saturday Review,"
18/20, York Buildings, Adelphi, London,
W.C.2. Commencing on.....,
please send to me weekly "The Saturday
Review," for a period of months,
for which I enclose remittance for

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

ORDER TO NEWSAGENT

Name of Newsagent

Address

Commencing with next issue, please deliver
to me each week a copy of "The Saturday
Review," published at 6d.

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE